

Cannon Hall (Jacob Cannon House)
Woodland, Seaford Hundred
Sussex County
Delaware

HABS No. DEL-156

HABS
DEL
3-WOOD
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CANNON HALL (JACOB CANNON HOUSE)

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Location: Woodland, Seaford Hundred, Sussex County,
Delaware.

Brief Statement
of Significance: This frame house, at a ferry site on the
Nanticoke River which is no longer in use,
was built ca. 1820 and reflects the con-
servative rural taste.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The village of Woodland, six miles below Seaford, on the Nanticoke River, was formerly called Cannons' Ferry. It was at one time the center of trading and shipping interests for much of the country round about, on both sides of the river. Railroads and motor transportation have supplanted sailing craft; in southern and eastern Delaware, once busy wharves have rotted and fallen into the water. Cannons' Ferry today is but a ghost of its former self. The ferry no longer runs.

Facing the river, and but a stone's throw from the water, is Cannon Hall. Built about 1820, it harks back to an earlier tradition of domestic architecture and bears no suggestion of the Regency or Federal manner of the period. It is a five-bay, two-story-and-attic structure with central hall ---- a hold-over of Georgian precedent deeply imbedded in the consciousness and preference of rural Delaware. At the south end is a one-story wing.

Being in Sussex, the house is built entirely of wood, save for the brick foundations. The walls are weatherboarded. All the exterior details, as well as the interior woodwork, are well designed and carefully finished. In Southern Delaware brick houses of Georgian provenance, the lintels above the windows are of wood, painted white, to simulate the marble which for many years it was impossible to get. With wooden houses the lintel was merely a decorative convention. At Cannon Hall the builder fashioned the lintel crestings in elaborate Cupid's-bow lines.

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The story of Cannon Hall is tragic. It was built for Jacob Cannon, the local financial magnate. He never lived in it. Jilted at the last minute by his fiancée, he was so embittered that the house he had just finished with utmost care stood empty for more than twenty years.

Prepared by Harold Donaldson Eberlein
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
June 1960

Addendum to:
Cannon Hall
(Jacob Cannon House)
Road 79 at Woodland Ferry
Woodland
Sussex County
Delaware

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106